



**Injured
actress
sent to
NYC**

pg 22

No longer getting you there in Halifax

AMERICAN EXPRESS Significant job losses are hitting the city as American Express is closing its Halifax call centre at the end of the month resulting in 87 people out of work.

David Barnes, the company's vice-president of communications and public affairs, is quoted in several media reports that months of weakening business travel bookings made keeping the Halifax call centre open impossible.

Workers were told last week about the layoffs and the office will be closing its doors March 27.

METRO HALIFAX

Irish eyes **Slainte**



Katie Camani-Connell, left, and Tracey Paterson enjoy a pint (or two) at the Split Crow yesterday. Many pubs and bars were packed yesterday as revellers enjoyed St. Patrick's Day festivities. **Story, pg 4**

Mourn first, says MacKay

PAUL MCLEOD
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HELICOPTER The time to re-evaluate helicopter use after the tragic accident off the coast of Newfoundland is later, said Defence Minister Peter MacKay yesterday in Halifax.

He said for now the government is focusing on mourning the 17 people who lost their lives.

"The short answer is no.

At this point

I don't believe there's anything that has been discovered,"

MacKay said when asked if he would be making changes to helicopter personnel deliveries.

"But look, clearly there is going to be an investigation. They have not yet recovered the wreckage of the Sikorsky aircraft, not only the recovery, but the investigation of what was the cause."

MacKay said the Canadian Forces would fully co-operate in the investigation into how a Cougar S-93 Sikorsky crashed into the ocean while delivering workers to an offshore oil platform last Thursday east of St. John's.

Of the 16 passengers and two crew personnel, only one person was found alive and he remains in critical, but stable condition.

MacKay said he would be heading to Newfoundland later this week to attend memorial services for the victims.

MORE COVERAGE, PG 2

Riding the **Recession**

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Entertainment

• The effect the economy is having on music venues and touring artists, pg 19



Tomorrow
• Some tips for brown-bagging lunches and local meals for a steal.

Local pg 2

Parking ban lifted early

Sports pg 11

Huskies shooting for redemption

Mighty Tory money

Attack ad spending on display with new campaign

PAUL MCLEOD
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The provincial Progressive Conservatives began flexing their financial might yesterday by running a series of attack ads against the New Democrats.

Last month Metro Halifax reported the Tories had saved about \$450,000 for an election, much more than the NDP's \$250,000.

The new TV and radio ads continue the recent theme of the NDP being too risky to elect during a recession.

"The NDP will just do what they did in Ontario," says one radio ad. "Spend

"We're obviously in a volatile political landscape. What do you do? Do you sit there and take it on the chin forever? I don't know the answer to that."

NDP Leader Darrell Dexter

money we don't have, raise taxes, and return to debt and deficit."

PC party president Scott Armstrong said his party isn't pushing for an election, but is gearing up for one either way. He also explained why none of the ads mention the Liberals.

"There are different campaign strategies," he said. "The NDP, if you notice in the polls, are in first

place. But polls are just a snapshot in time.

"We want to make sure that people understand that the NDP have made several promises in their releases and the legislature over the last couple years."

NDP Leader Darrell Dexter said the content of the ads is completely made up by the Tories. He said they falsely claim the NDP promised \$2 billion in spending,

when it's the Conservatives who have vowed a \$1.9-billion stimulus plan.

The NDP hasn't run an ad campaign yet, which can be expensive. Dexter said he didn't know when that would happen or how hard-hitting it would be.

"We're obviously in a volatile political landscape," he said. "What do you do? Do you sit there and take it on the chin forever? I don't know the answer to that. I'm going to see how this thing is going to unfold."

The Liberals have been running ads for some time, but they have focused more on building up the image of leader Stephen McNeil.

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Local



Dryden in town

Hockey legend and Liberal MP Ken Dryden will be speaking at the Scotiabank Theatre at Saint Mary's University today at 11 a.m. for a public lecture titled *It's Time For Canada*. Dryden will also meet with members of Fusion Halifax to discuss poverty reduction at 5 p.m. at the Hub on Barrington Street.

METRO HALIFAX

Last of bodies recovered from downed helicopter

ST. JOHN'S The Atlantic Osprey made another sombre call at St. John's harbour under the early morning darkness yesterday, this time bringing home the final seven bodies missing since last Thursday's crash of a Cougar helicopter in the Atlantic Ocean.

All bodies have now been removed from the fuselage of the downed helicopter resting on the ocean floor.

Eighteen people were aboard the Sikorsky S-92A, which ditched into the Atlantic Ocean 55 kilometres east of St. John's, minutes after the pilot issued a mayday call. The helicopter was transporting workers to the Hibernia platform and the Sea Rose production ship on the Grand Banks. Seventeen people were killed in the crash, including one Nova Scotian: Ken MacRae, 47, of Greenwood.

In other developments, the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) says it has recovered the flight data recorder from Cougar Helicopters Flight 491.

Mike Cunningham, the TSB's investigator-in-charge, says the device arrived in St. John's early yesterday morning with the last of the bodies taken from the wreckage.

The recorder is now en route to Ottawa where officials will use it to get detailed information about why the helicopter crashed. **ST. JOHN'S TELEGRAM**

City lifts winter parking ban

Good weather frees up streets earlier than scheduled

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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The tulips aren't out yet, but at least the overnight winter parking ban is over.

The city-wide ban was supposed to run until March 30, but it was lifted at midnight last night.

"Once the weather appears to be getting nicer and we don't seem to be having the bad weather, they feel they can safely lift the ban," said HRM spokeswoman Deborah Story, hopefully not jinxing anything.

And if there is another winter storm, the city will ask everyone to park off the streets.

"We know (the ban) causes some hardship for people so we feel we can lift it now because it seems we haven't had too much bad weather and it doesn't seem to stay if we do get snow," Story said.

From the time the ban took effect (Dec. 15) to March 3, there were 17,468 tickets issued. At \$25 a ticket, that translates into \$436,700 in revenue for the city.

Story said that money goes into the municipal services pot.

While the HRM has had



Cars are parked along Rainnie Drive yesterday. HRM is lifting the overnight parking ban earlier than planned due to the mild weather.

an overnight winter parking ban in the past, it is somewhat rare. But looking back over the winter months, Story said it was a good decision.

"It helped us with being able to get snow removed more efficiently. It was put in place as a safety factor ... because we can't clear the streets properly," she

"It helped us with being able to get snow removed more efficiently."

HRM spokeswoman Deborah Story

said. "When you look at the number of tickets, if

we didn't have it how many people were parking on the streets."

There is still a provincial overnight winter parking ban in effect which restricts on-street parking on streets in the former County of Halifax. These are streets maintained by the province and this ban will be lifted at the end of the month.

Cosmetics firm offers bath products to city transit drivers

CAMPAIGN After alleged road rage, racism and fake-seal beatings, what bus drivers really need is some soothing aromatherapy.

A Halifax cosmetics company is supplying Metro Transit workers with some bath products to calm "agitated" drivers.

"It seems that the Metro Transit drivers need some tender loving care that Lush Cosmetics bath products can provide," the company wrote in a release.

Lush is hopping on board the campaign to stop seal hunting and said it was surprised to hear about a bus driver who pulled over to beat a fake seal at a protest on Saturday.

"Stopping a bus to club a stuffed animal takes road rage to another level," said Sean Gifford, Lush's campaigns manager.

"While no actual baby seals were hurt during his outburst, we think this bus driver could do with a nice relaxing bubble bath to help clean up his act."

The company sent Metro Transit a box of bath bars and invites drivers to come by their store for some free samples.

METRO HALIFAX

Tour for Cure seeks to raise mammogram awareness

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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More than 50 per cent of women who should be getting mammograms aren't.

Why not? According to a recent survey from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-Atlantic most women believe they don't need one.

"And that's pretty scary," said Nancy Margeson, CEO of the CBCFA.

"Some of the other reasons were they didn't know if they were at the right age yet, their doctor hadn't recommended that they have one and they had no family history."

At one time, Elaine Finlay could sympathize.

"I would have said I'm too young and I'm too busy," she said. "I was putting myself on the backburner as

"I was putting myself on the backburner as many women do and it's time we start taking care of ourselves ..."

Breast cancer survivor Elaine Finlay

many women do and it's time we start taking care of ourselves because if we don't it will hurt our families and it will hurt us."

About 10 years ago, Finlay decided to take a mammogram. She was diagnosed with breast cancer, but since it was caught early, surgery, radiation and treatment made her a breast cancer survivor.

"It was just a wake-up call to take care of myself. I'm



Nancy Margeson, left, CEO of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-Atlantic Region sits next to Elaine Finlay, breast cancer survivor and chair of Breast Cancer Action Nova Scotia board of directors, in Halifax yesterday.

amazed and very thankful that I did that when I did."

In Nova Scotia, about 46 per cent of eligible women are screened. Margeson said her goal is to get that num-

ber to 85 per cent, and she considers that "a stretch." One in eight women in Atlantic Canada is diagnosed with breast cancer, which is slightly higher than the na-

tional average.

That's why the foundation is rolling out a Tour for Cure this summer.

"It's a big pink bus, surprise, surprise," Margeson said.

"Between April 15 and Sept. 15 it will make 122 stops in Atlantic Canada and we will be encouraging all women to come on board the bus and find out how to take their breast health in their own hands."

'Wake-up call'

- In Nova Scotia women can self-refer for a mammogram starting at 40 years of age, and if they don't have any risks they might not have to have one every year.
- Women between 50-69 years of age are advised to have a mammogram on a yearly basis.

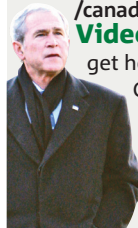
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What's online today.

Video Cabinet ministers meet suspected Taliban militant during Afghanistan visit at metronews.ca/canada

Video Recovery mission ends after last victim of chopper crash is brought to St. John's at metronews.ca/canada

Video Duel protests get heated during George W. Bush's Calgary visit at metronews.ca/canada



Business students test their skills

Four students from Saint Mary's University will test their investment skills tomorrow at the Global Investment Research Challenge in New York City. **METRO HALIFAX**

local **3**



Defence Minister Peter MacKay, right, speaks with Capt. John Newton outside of a renovated military house at Shearwater yesterday.

Stimulus funds flow to Bedford projects

\$18-million projects create 100 contracts

PAUL MCLEOD

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Defence Minister Peter MacKay was in Halifax yesterday to announce funding for an armoury in Bedford and 18 remodelled military homes.

MacKay said the armoury will be the headquarters for three military police units and be used to attract new members into the Canadian Forces.

"The new classrooms and offices will give the unit the space that it needs to train, prepare and more effectively carry out its duties," he said.

MacKay played up the

"These houses were built in the 1940s and 50s, when families were of different size, shape and configuration than you might find today."

Defence Minister Peter MacKay

projects, worth a combined \$18 million, as economic stimulus. He said that close to 100 construction contracts were created to complete the two projects.

About \$3.2 million of

that went to renovating 18 military homes at 12 Wing Shearwater. The renovations include expanding the living space, adding a bedroom and upgraded plumbing.

"These houses were built in the 1940s and 50s, when families were of different size, shape and configuration than you might find today," MacKay said. "They had different needs. And obviously these houses are meant to modernize and provide for those needs."

MacKay said both the houses and new armoury will add to the "luster and the lure" of working for the Canadian Forces, and help attract new recruits.

Retiring senator takes early break

FLORIDA Gerard Phalen of Glace Bay retires from the Canadian Senate in two weeks, but he's not available to comment on his term in the upper house of Parliament or his impending retirement.

That's because he is spending his final weeks as a senator in Florida and is not granting interviews.

"I gave Senator Phalen your message and he said to tell you to call him this summer," Phalen's secretary, Diane Wistaff, said this week from his office in Ottawa. "He's too busy holidaying."

He is expected back home in Glace Bay by the first week of May, she said.

CAPE BRETON POST

McNeil pledges to cut small business tax

PAUL MCLEOD

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CAMPAIGN Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil made a campaign-style move yesterday, promising to reduce the province's small business tax by 80 per cent.

McNeil told the Halifax Chamber of Commerce that a broad-based tax cut would help the economy more than the manufacturer's credit proposed by Darrell Dexter's NDP. He said he would reduce the small business tax from five per cent to one.

"Reducing the tax burden on small businesses is

essential to supporting our economy," McNeil said in a press release.

"This tax cut will create a competitive environment where small businesses can grow and create more jobs for Nova Scotians."

McNeil said the tax break would save between \$30 and \$35 million per year.

A recent poll put the Liberals neck and neck with the governing Tories for second place behind the NDP. Despite this, the Tories recently launched a series of attack ads against the NDP, ignoring the Liberals.

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Egypt.....14.9 ¢	Oman.....17.9 ¢
Iran.....3.9 ¢	Saudi Arabia.....3.9 ¢
Iraq.....4.9 ¢	Syria.....18.9 ¢
Israel.....2.9 ¢	U.A.E.....19.9 ¢

Latin America

ECUADOR 12.9 ¢/min	CUBA 85 ¢/min
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Haiti.....16.9 ¢	Bolivia.....6.9 ¢
Honduras.....15.9 ¢	Chile.....2.9 ¢
Panama.....3.9 ¢	Colombia.....3.9 ¢
Uruguay.....7.9 ¢	Dominican Rep.....6.9 ¢
Venezuela.....2.9 ¢	Mexico.....2.9 ¢

South Asia

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Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency is reminding residents to be safe when using candles. Working on the quote, "When you go out, blow out," the department says candle fires are on the rise and are a leading cause of fires in homes. **METRO HALIFAX**

Coasters in running for space spot

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Two Nova Scotians are on the short list to be the next Canadian astronaut.

Former Olympian Peter Giles from Lake Echo and Geoffrey Steeves from Halifax are on the top 16 list. Originally 5,351 people were considered. The Canadian Space Agency will hire two astronauts in May and

the two successful candidates will live on the International Space Station for six months.

Candidates were put through medical, physical and skills tests — some under extreme conditions. They were also tested for creativity and teamwork to see if they can meet the

demands of space flight.

"This is only the third astronaut recruitment campaign held in Canadian history. As we proceed with our selection process, two of these highly talented individuals will be chosen for the opportunity of a lifetime," said CSA president and former astro-

naut Steve MacLean in a statement.

Giles was interviewed by Metro in July after his trip as an assistant Chef de Mission to the Beijing Olympics.

"Being an Olympian gets you into a club you belong to for the rest of your life," he told Metro. "It breaks the ice and opens all kinds of doors."

He also has a PhD in applied physics.

"This is only the third astronaut ... campaign held in Canadian history."

Steve MacLean, CSA



Pauline Tran, left, and Kristina Peppar sport green attire while celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Old Triangle in Halifax yesterday.

Celebrating the wearing of the green

PHILIP CROUCHER
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For some, there is no day like St. Patrick's Day.

"It's like Christmas, New Year's and Halloween all rolled into one," said Halifax's Colin Dauphinee, sporting a green leprechaun hat as he sipped on a mid-morning beer. "It's a lot of fun."

Dauphinee was eager to celebrate the popular Irish holiday as he got into a line at 6:15 a.m. yesterday to be one of the first inside the Old Triangle Irish Alehouse in Halifax. The Old Triangle was one of several Irish bars in Halifax to open their doors early for St. Patrick's Day.

An hour after opening, there was still a lengthy lineup outside the bar from eager patrons looking to get in. The line disappeared by 9 a.m., but it was still packed inside with people wearing mostly green attire drinking and singing to the live music playing in the

background.

"The drinking," Bedford's Kristina Peppar said as to why for the 10th year in a row she took yesterday off work to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with friends. "There's friendly people, the music ... and (again) the drinking."

Peppar and her friends were making a day of it yesterday. Their schedule had them hitting several Irish bars in the downtown core, with the celebrating going well into the night.

"We'll be out to midnight," said Peppar, who wouldn't divulge where she worked. "We have to get the last bus home because we'll be drinking all of our taxi money."

As for Dauphinee and his crew, they planned to make it back home at a more reasonable hour.

"We're shooting for 9 p.m.," the military worker said. "Sometimes it's later, sometimes it's sooner. We just try and keep ourselves out of trouble."

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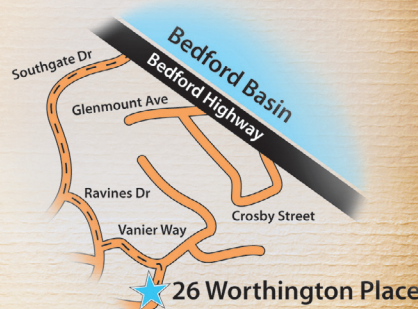
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News in brief

BLAZE A fire that broke out in a 1½-storey house on Kay Street in Glace Bay at about 10:45 p.m. Monday, has been deemed accidental. Const. Jim Taylor of the Forensic Ident

unit of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service, said the fire began under a stairwell in the basement area. Taylor said no one was home at the time of the fire. **METRO HALIFAX**

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Federal Heritage Minister James Moore used a Sunday television appearance in Quebec to criticize the level of U.S. programming on CBC. "I don't like it when I see the CBC cancelling Canadian content, and we see Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune," Moore said. **REUTERS**

Canada



Health claims hurting fish: Report

Claims about the human health benefits of eating more fish may be causing more environmental and social harm than good, according to a University of British Columbia study published yesterday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The health claims appear to be overblown, and many of the studies making them ignore the pressure increased consumption puts on the dwindling global fish stocks, researchers say. **REUTERS**

Bus crash kills three Canadians

Truck collides with tourist bus, police say truck driver had been drinking

Three Canadians, seven Americans and a Mexican bus driver are dead after their bus was hit by a truck — whose driver police allege was drunk — in northern Mexico, officials said yesterday.

The bus was carrying 23 American and Canadian tourists when a cargo truck swerved into its lane Monday and slammed into it head on, said an official from the civil protection agency in the state of Coahuila where the crash occurred.

Seventeen more were injured, some of them in serious condition, the official said.

The three Canadians to perish in the crash are being identified as: Robert Lacas, 56, of Quebec City; Carolyn Kowaleski, 68, of Caledonia, Ont.; and Marilyn Jackson, 67, of Vancouver.

The bus, which had left from McAllen, Texas, was carrying tourists to the colonial mining town of Zacatecas in central Mexico.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Red Cross paramedics remove an injured person from the site of a Monday bus accident on the outskirts of Saltillo in the Mexican state of Coahuila.

Four arrested as George W. Bush speaks in Calgary

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Canada

PROTEST Those lucky enough to be part of the elite 1,500 who purchased an invitation-only \$400 seat to hear George W. Bush's speech in Calgary yesterday thought the former president spoke honestly and from the heart.

While Bush kicked off his unofficial image rehabilitation tour inside the Telus Convention Centre, about 300 protestors gathered outside with angry signs and chants. Some tried to intimidate the

"I'm here in support of what he's done."

Wes Rein Heller, speech attendee

said Wes Rein Heller, who attended Bush's speech. "On the flip side, I see a lineup here that's half a mile long — and this is where it's at. I'm here in support of what he's done for the past eight years."

Police arrested four protestors at the event for various charges, including violations of a public behaviour bylaw and breaching the peace.

VIDEO: protests get heated during George W. Bush's Calgary visit at metronews.ca/canada

B.C. implements law banning exotic pets

JEFF HODSON
Metro Canada

SAFETY B.C. is banning potentially dangerous exotic pets two years after a woman was mauled and killed by a caged tiger in full view of her children.

Tania Dumstrey-Soos, 32, of Bridge Lake, B.C., died in May 2007 when a caged tiger reached through the bars of its cage and severed an artery in the back

of her leg.

The animal was one of several tigers and lions that her fiancé kept for display on their property.

"(The death) was completely needless and unnecessary," said Barry Penner, B.C.'s environment minister.

"And it really

did bring public attention that we need to take steps here in British Columbia."

The new Controlled Alien Species Regulation, which came into effect on Monday, lists a number of species, like tigers, alligators and pythons, that people are prohibited from owning.

"There are many examples of people being seriously injured or killed in North America by wild animals that are not native to this continent."



Man in Ontario sues over \$42.9M jackpot

CASINO For five minutes, Paul Kusznirewicz thought he was a multimillionaire.

A new house. A new car. College funds for the kids and their kids. All of his dreams were going to come true.

It was Dec. 8 at the Georgian Downs casino, in Innisfil, Ont.

The 55-year-old sat stupefied, gawking first at the Buccaneer slot machine — Jackpot! You've won \$42.9 million — then at his equally stunned wife.

"The lights and the sounds. It was saying on the machine 'Call attendant. You have won a jackpot of over \$42 million,'" he said. "I couldn't believe it."

Casino personnel rushed to the slots — two supervi-

sors, security and several mechanics. They took pictures. A crowd began to gather. Finally, someone said: "We can't pay you that money because that machine is broken."

But as compensation, Kusznirewicz was offered four coupons for the casino's dinner buffet.

Yesterday, just before 1 p.m., Kusznirewicz's lawyer served the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation with legal papers. Kusznirewicz believes he should be compensated.

OLG has countered that the maximum payout for the Buccaneer slot game is \$9,025.

"It clearly malfunctioned," said spokesperson Allison Sparkes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HOT TUB John Hoppe and his wife Ashley thought they were getting a hot tub included when they bought their first home together. When they moved into their Deer Ridge, Alta., home in late January, the hot tub wasn't there due to a mistake made by their realtor Ed Belanger. The previous owners had taken it with them because it was put in the wrong section of the contract. Even though the real estate business is far from booming these days, Belanger decided to rectify his mistake by

buying the couple a hot tub out of his own pocket.

FUNERAL Roughly 1,000 relatives, friends and community members filled a Toronto church yesterday morning to remember and mourn Marc Diab, who was the 112th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan since 2002.

FINE A man from Hay River, NWT, was fined \$1,500 yesterday for leaving his golden retriever in a hot car for 2½ hours in Edmonton in June 2006. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

An economic tale of two provinces

REPORT The rural province of Saskatchewan will have the strongest economic performance in Canada this year and the industrialized province of Ontario will be hardest hit by global recession and financial market turmoil, reports from two Canadian banks said yesterday.

Toronto-Dominion Bank and Bank of Nova Scotia both expect broad economic weakness across the country, pushing the overall economy to contract 2.4 per cent in 2009. **REUTERS**

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Ethnic stat collecting causes furor

French President Nicholas Sarkozy has caused an uproar with plans to collect statistics on ethnic origins to help minorities. "The controversy shows we're not at peace with our identity," Francois Heran, director of the National Institute of Demographic Studies, said. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

7

World



Robot hits catwalk

From IT labs to photo grabs, a Japanese humanoid robot will soon be strutting her hard- and soft-ware stuff on the fashion catwalk. The sleek HRP-4C runs on battery-powered motors located in her body and face, allowing the expressions, gait and poses of a supermodel, but on a stormtrooper-like silver and black frame.

REUTERS

Radiation hurt wildlife: Study

CHERNOBYL Radiation has affected animals living near the site of Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear disaster far more than was previously thought, a study showed yesterday, challenging beliefs that local wildlife was on the rebound.

The study showed that numbers of bumble-bees, butterflies, spiders, grasshoppers and other invertebrates were lower in contaminated sites than other areas because of high levels of radiation from the blast.

REUTERS

No condoms for AIDS: Pope

Pontiff reaffirms Church's opposition on visit to HIV-plagued Africa

Pope Benedict yesterday reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to the use of condoms in the fight against AIDS as he started a visit to Africa, where more than 25 million people have died from the disease in recent decades.

The Pope, who arrived to a tumultuous welcome in the capital of Cameroon, also said the continent's people were suffering disproportion-

In America...

- With a large poor and minority population, Washington D.C. has struggled with HIV for decades. A recent report showed the number of people with HIV infections rose 22 per cent from 2006 to 2007.

ately due to the global challenges of food shortages, financial crises and climate change.

"It (AIDS) cannot be overcome by the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, they increase the problem," he said in response to a question about the Church's widely contested position against the use of condoms.

His words were some of his most explicit on the use of condoms to stop the spread of AIDS since his election in 2005.

The Church teaches that fidelity within heterosexu-

al marriage, chastity and abstinence are the best ways to stop AIDS. It does not approve condoms but some Church leaders have been calling for allowing their use in rare cases between married heterosexual couples where one partner has the disease.

With the number of practising Catholics dwindling in the developed world, Africa is seen as vital to the Church's future.

REUTERS

China to redesign Tibetan capital city

PLANNING China has approved a "modern redesign" of Tibet's remote and mountainous capital Lhasa, state media announced yesterday, including a limit on its downtown population.

Overseas rights groups have long complained that the Chinese government has failed to protect historic Lhasa and accuse Beijing of trying to flood the region with Han Chinese to dilute its ethnic makeup and assert greater control.

China rejects these charges, saying it has invested billions to improve lives in a region once blighted by serfdom and poverty, and is committed to protecting its unique way of life and customs.

REUTERS

Russia rearms amid NATO expansion

MILITARY Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday that Russia would rearm its military and boost its nuclear forces despite the raging economic crisis because U.S.-led NATO is expanding toward its borders.

Moscow has sent conflicting signals to Washington since the election of Barack Obama as U.S. president.

The Kremlin says it wants to improve ties with the White House, but it has also taken steps to stem rising U.S. clout in ex-Soviet states.

"Attempts to expand the military infrastructure of NATO near the borders of

"The primary task is to increase the combat readiness of our forces."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev

our country are continuing," Medvedev told an annual meeting with Defense Ministry staff.

Russia sees plans by the previous U.S. administration to push for NATO membership for ex-Soviet Ukraine and Georgia, and to deploy elements of a missile shield in Eastern Europe, as a direct threat

to its national security.

And while welcoming Obama's desire to give ties a fresh start Medvedev, who will meet Obama in London on April 1, has said he expects Washington to match declarations with deeds.

Medvedev told Russia's top military brass that the prospect of NATO's expansion, combined with the threat of local crises and international terrorism, "requires a modernization of our armed forces, giving them a new modern shape."

"The primary task is to increase the combat readiness of our forces," Medvedev said.

REUTERS

Austria Grim charges



Defendant Josef Fritzl arrives for his trial in Sankt Poelten, Austria, yesterday. Fritzl, a 73-year-old Austrian who locked his daughter in a cellar for 24 years and fathered seven children with her, pleaded guilty to incest but denied murdering a newborn son who died underground.

HELMUT FORHNER/REUTERS

Province to have democracy back

PAKISTAN The Pakistani government will restore democracy quickly in its biggest and politically most important province as part of reconciliation efforts, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said yesterday.

Gilani announced on Monday that the government had agreed to reinstate a former chief justice dismissed in 2007.

REUTERS

News in brief

SRI LANKA Tamil Tiger separatists counterattacked with a failed suicide bombing in clashes that killed at least 14 rebels and more than 1,500 refugees fled Sri Lanka's war zone, the military said.

COMPENSATION The Internal Revenue Service issued new rules yesterday that would allow victims of Ponzi schemes like the one run by Bernard Madoff to recoup some money by claiming theft losses on

their tax returns for 2008. Investors in Madoff's scheme would theoretically have been paying capital gains taxes on the profits they made from his investment.

REUTERS

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NOVA SCOTIA
Transportation and
Infrastructure Renewal

The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) are exploring the future best use of the Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor from Windsor Street, Halifax to Fall River. The study includes traffic projections and functional designs that could be implemented in stages over a 30-year period. The location of the proposed Highway 107 from Akerley Blvd in Burnside to Highway 102 near Duke Street (Exit 4C) has also been updated and evaluated. The study was conducted by Stantec Consulting on behalf of NSTIR and HRM. Public information sessions will be held to present the findings of the study and the functional design of the roadways and interchanges:

• **Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

at Sackville High School, 1 Kingfisher Way, Lower Sackville, from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

• **Thursday, March 26, 2009**

at the Park Place Hotel & Conference Centre, Ramada Plaza, 240 Brownlow Avenue, Dartmouth, from 4pm to 6pm.

NSTIR, HRM and Consultant staff will be in attendance at the public information sessions to discuss the study and answer questions. If you have questions regarding the upcoming session, please contact Bernadette Landry, P. Eng at 434-7331 or by e-mail at bernadette.landry@stantec.com.

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Comment

Dumb as a dinosaur

The WestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Meet Hesperonychus elizabethae, the smallest dinosaur ever to stalk the Jurassic jungles of North America.

Hesperonychus lived 75 million years ago, weighed about two kilograms and stood about 50 centimetres tall. He was the equivalent of a prehistoric chicken, complete with feathers.

Only much nastier.

Hesperonychus was a tiny, perfect relative of Velociraptor, the ferocious thug featured in the Jurassic Park movies, and came equipped with its cousin's sharp claws and teeth. You wouldn't want to run into

a flock of these dino-mites.

Hesperonychus was discovered by Canadian Nick Longrich, a paleontologist at the University of Calgary, who did his fieldwork by rummaging around in a drawer.

Apparently the little dino's bones had been dug up in 1982, but no one took a close look at the little hip bone in question until 2007 when Longrich acted

species.

A very Canadian discovery, this.

A four-pound prehistoric chicken discovered at the back of a drawer in a university lab.

What's so important about this fierce, but fortunately extinct little beast?

Well, it begins to paint a more complete picture of the Jurassic ecology; it tells us more about the ancestors

of our feathered friends, and it reminds us that big things come in small packages.

Longrich himself sees an object lesson — Hesperonychus avoided

ed detection, even if it was right under our noses all this time, because of something he

calls "collecting bias" — paleontologists are human too, so they spend most of their time looking for T-Rex and have a tendency to ignore such tiny treasures.

It takes a Canadian sensibility, I guess, to think small enough.

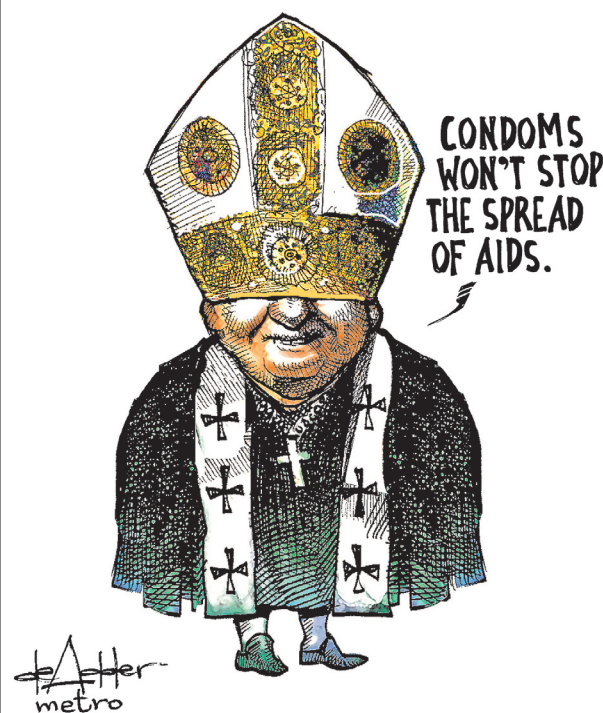
I hate to end this on a depressing note, but of course this discovery has prompted the people who learned their natural history studying the Flintstones, to state with conviction that Hesperonychus could not be 75 million years old, because as any idiot knows God created the world only 6013 years ago, and it took him seven days to do it.

It's hard to believe that such stupidity and lucidity can co-exist at the same time in the same nation, but that's evolution for you.

I remain confident that natural selection will take care of the former, and advance the latter.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

VISION FOR AFRICA



MICHAEL DE ADER

Online Chatter

Is this old-fashioned approach still valid?

Re: Milk-bag mats for Third World countries (March 15)

We are uncertain as to the real environmental and ethical costs of this venture.

Recycling is definitely important, however sending our recycled materials thousands of kilometres overseas does nothing to help sustain the environment, and milk-bag mats simply give us a reason to continue to over-consume plastic.

From an ethical point of view, is it right to send our waste that we don't want, to others?

Plastic bags do exist in Third World countries, but proper mats and teddy bears are scarce.

This seems to be a fairly ignorant attempt to solve a problem without fully un-

derstanding the real situation. Comments by username: huh

twitter

Re: George W. Bush's visit to Canada

I think people are hoping something will happen to Bush while he's here, but Calgary's too sleepy to actually try anything.

Tweet by ideagrill @metrocalgary

Re: George W. Bush's visit to Canada

It was bad form to only allow a few elites to hear the talk. All of Calgary could have benefited from the discussion.

Tweet by muunkky @metrocalgary

Word on the street: What outdoor activity do you most look forward to once the weather warms up?

Terry Cox

age 20, Ottawa

A: Football. It's fun to get together with the guys and hit and hurt each other.

Stacey Van Dyk

age 36, Halifax

A: Hiking along the coast.

Julie Boissonneault

age 25, Gatineau

A: Read a book outside. I'm just tired of sitting inside all winter.

Judy Hines

age 22, Port Hawkesbury

A: Outdoor soccer. We play until it's dark and cap it off with some beer.

Andrew Black

age 22, Halifax

A: I'm looking forward to hiking and camping again. I just don't like pavement.

Kelly Soucie

age 22, Hull

A: Being able to walk outside or rollerblade. I like the fresh air and finally being outdoors again.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Metro Online Poll Results

63% SAID YES

Should CBC Radio run ads to fend off funding woes?

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

37% SAID NO

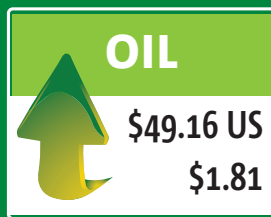
Italian porn star strips in Milan bourse protest

An Italian pornographic actress stripped down to her panties at the Milan stock exchange yesterday to protest against the financial crisis, police said. "Italy is down to its underpants," Laura Perego, 22, shouted before being taken away. **REUTERS**

9

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



Loans dependent on looks?

Those judged trustworthy more likely to get to borrow: Study

A credit score can tell a lender a lot about a prospective borrower, but so can the borrower's looks, a new study says.

People who are perceived to be trustworthy are more likely to have a higher credit score and pay lower interest rates on loans, and are less likely to default, according to the study by Rice University in Houston, Tex.

Even when hard facts such as credit scores are available, people rely on an assessment of trustworthiness to decide whether

Scrapping prejudices

To make sure the evaluators' prejudices did not skew the results, researchers controlled for race, age, gender,

obesity, attractiveness and education, as well as financial factors like employment status and income.

to make a loan.

Researchers studied members of Prosper.com, an online lending site where people looking for loans are matched up with individual lenders.

Each Prosper.com loan applicant submitted a profile that included credit

and work history, education level, income, and an optional photo of themselves for lender review.

A team of 25 people was hired to rate the applicants' trustworthiness on a scale of one to five using only the photographs of the borrowers. The team

also judged the probability that the borrowers would repay a \$100 loan.

Those judged to be trustworthy by the team were more likely to get a loan from Prosper.com lenders and tended to have a credit score about 20 points higher than those determined to be untrustworthy, the researchers found.

"Untrustworthy" borrowers were seven per cent more likely to default on their loan than a perceived trustworthy borrower with the same credit score.

REUTERS

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Study on amalgamation in Pictou approved:

Pictou's council will support a resolution calling for provincial money to fund an independent study on municipal amalgamation in Pictou County.

\$4.8M office building to be built by August:

Businessman Martin Chernin expects construction of his new \$4.8-million office building in the city's downtown to be finished in August. The building will have two stories on the Charlotte Street side and three stories on the Esplanade.

Stimulus details lacking:

Colchester County will be getting a piece of the province's stimulus package, but for exactly what remains a secret. Mayor Bill Mills said he is grateful for the funding but is looking for more details.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning. Sign up today for the **DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ** nsbj.ca

Apple iPhone software upgrade



Dr. Ge Wang of Smule plays music to the Apple iPhone OS 3.0 software and its music applications at the Apple Inc. campus in Cupertino, Calif., yesterday. Apple yesterday unveiled an iPhone software upgrade with new features including copy-and-paste and automatic notifications.

Telus plans to spend \$500M in B.C.

WIRELESS Telus Corp. plans to spend \$500 million this year on building out telecom infrastructure in its home province of British Columbia, it said yesterday.

Telus said the spending

will focus mostly on advanced wireless and wireline broadband technology, including an Internet data centre.

REUTERS

U.S. Congress eyes bonus surtax amid AIG outrage

WASHINGTON Some members of Congress yesterday proposed slapping a surtax on bonuses paid to executives at American International Group Inc. amid outrage over the large payouts.

Michigan Democratic Representative Gary Peters introduced a bill in the House to impose a 60 per cent surtax on bonuses over \$10,000 US at any company in which the U.S. government has a 79 per cent or greater equity stake.

"Currently, AIG is the only company that meets this threshold," Peters said in a statement. "The legislation I'm proposing will get taxpayers their money back."

President Barack Obama Monday expressed "outrage" about \$165 million of bonuses to employees of AIG, once the world's largest insurer, now being bailed out by the government.

REUTERS

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Distribution starts March 30th

Houston Rockets forward Carl Landry was shot in the leg while driving near his home early yesterday morning. The injury to his leg was minor, and the team says the player was treated at a hospital and released. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA



Brodeur passes Roy

Martin Brodeur, left, is now the NHL's all-time winningest netminder. Brodeur made 30 saves last night to help the New Jersey Devils defeat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-2. The 36-year-old Brodeur notched the 552nd win of his illustrious career to surpass Patrick Roy for the most victories in league history. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Injury keeps Canadian off the court

As March Madness kicks off, Robert Sacre can only cheer for Gonzaga teammates

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



It's the most exciting time of the year in NCAA basketball — and Robert Sacre is on the outside looking in.

Sacre, a seven-footer from North Vancouver and one of Canada's top basketball prospects, has been ruled out for the rest of Gonzaga's season with a broken foot, ending a nightmarish sophomore campaign that lasted just five games.

Instead of being in the heat of the action, Sacre will be in plainclothes while the nationally 12th-ranked Bulldogs (26-5) face the Akron Zips (23-12) tomorrow.

"It's very frustrating, but you just have to accept it and deal with it," said Sacre, who will gain a season of eligibility because of medical redshirt rules. "I'll cheer as much as I possibly can on the sidelines. That's all I can do, so why not?"

Sacre actually broke his foot twice this season. He

Canadian content

If you follow March Madness, a number of Canadian names may come across your screen. Here's a look at some.

- **TYLER KEPKAY**, Utah (24-9): The senior guard from Vancouver and high school teammate of Robert Sacre averages 30.4 minutes and 10.1 points per game.

- **ANDY RAUTINS**, Syracuse (23-8): Rautins, a six-foot-five junior and the son of national-team head coach Leo Rautins, is fourth in Syracuse scoring with 10.5 points per game.

- **SHAMAR COOMBS**, Texas A&M (18-15): Coombs is a six-foot-one junior guard from Toronto who has produced 8.1 points per game

while averaging 24.7 minutes of floor time.

- **WILLIE GALICK**, Cal State Northridge (17-13): One of the more productive Canadians in the NCAA, the six-foot-eight junior from Nanaimo, B.C., averages 9.2 points and 5.4 rebounds.

- **DEVOE JOSEPH**, Minnesota (22-10): The Ajax, Ont., native is a six-foot-three freshman who averages 16.8 minutes and 5.1 points per game off the Golden Gophers bench.

- **OTHERS TO WATCH FOR:** Ifeanyi Ehirim, Robert Morris (Calgary); Tyrell Mara, Portland St. (White Rock, B.C.); Alex Hill, Cornell (Toronto); Ryan Wright, Oklahoma (Mississauga, Ont.)

10. He called it a "freak accident."

"It was really hard for me," Sacre said. "Especially because when I came down the second time, I just knew it was a break. That

was the hardest part. But you just have to accept it. Things happen, and you can't blame anyone for it."

Sacre, who was a starter in last year's opening-round loss to Davidson in the NCAA Tournament, remains one of the most highly touted big men to come out of Canada in years and will look to get his career back on track in the fall.

He averaged 2.8 points and 1.8 rebounds as a freshman.

"I need to work on my inside game, my rebounding and my defence," he said. "I know what I need to work on and I'll just focus on that and perfect those skills."

With Sacre on the sidelines, Gonzaga is still considered a threat to do damage at the NCAA Tournament. They've struggled in recent years, advancing beyond the first weekend just once in the past seven seasons. Sacre has high hopes.

"We've had our ups and downs, but we're looking good," Sacre said. "You just have to play as hard as you can and see what happens."



Robert Sacre, seen here playing for the Gonzaga Bulldogs in 2007, will be unable to play in the NCAA tournament.

Sports in brief

BASEBALL World Series MVP Cole Hamels of the Philadelphia Phillies has no structural damage to his tender left elbow but is not certain to start the season, the team said yesterday. The 25-year-old pitcher was diagnosed with inflammation in his pitching elbow and is set to resume training in two days.

BASEBALL Fourteen-time all-star catcher Ivan Rodriguez seems set to sign with the Houston Astros after the World Baseball Classic. General manager Ed Wade told the team's website the deal was in the "discussion phase" before adding, "In the last few days we see there is a possibility to get something done."

OLYMPICS Squash should be accepted into the 2016 Olympic program because the sport is economical to host, the president of squash's world governing body said. The International Olympic Committee will decide in October whether to introduce up to two new sports for the 2016 Games.

REUTERS

Habs fall to Rangers in shootout

NHL

Rangers 4, Habs 3 (SO)

Chris Drury notched the game-winner in the third round of the shootout as the New York Rangers clipped Montreal, 4-3, at the Bell Centre last night.

After Montreal's Andrei Markov began the round with a goal to tie the shootout at two apiece, Drury beat Carey Price with a sizzling wrist shot from the slot to ice the game for New York.

Nik Antropov, Nikolai Zherdev and Ryan Callahan scored in regulation for the Rangers, who have won three of their last four games.

Henrik Lundqvist stopped 26 shots for the win.

Alex Kovalev, Maxim Lapierre and Markov tallied one each for the Canadiens, who have dropped three in a row.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Montreal Canadian Maxim Lapierre is knocked into the net by New York Ranger Paul Mara as goaltender Henrik Lundqvist watches last night in Montreal.

Tough test for Djokovic

TENNIS Defending champion Novak Djokovic survived a tough test at the ATP event in Indian Wells, Calif., yesterday before beating German Tommy Haas 6-2 7-6 and sealing a place in the fourth round.

The third-seeded Serb cruised through the first set but had to battle past a resurgent Haas in the second to set up a meeting with either Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland or unseeded American Sam Querrey.

Former world No. 2 Haas, who has slipped to 64th in the rankings, had two break points that would have put him ahead 5-3 in the second set but Djokovic held on and played a superb tie-break, winning it 7-1 to clinch victory.

"I was a break up (in the second set) and had some chances to finish the match a little before now, but he stepped it up," Djokovic said.

REUTERS

Tiger top male athlete of week

Ueli Albert of the Dalhousie Tigers track and field team has been named Atlantic University Sport male athlete of the week. **METRO HALIFAX**

sports 11

Saint Mary's Huskies goaltender Brandon Verge, pictured here in a Feb. 12 game, hopes to "ruin the party" for the New Brunswick Varsity Reds tonight in the AUS men's hockey final.

Huskies have shot at 'redemption'

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



The Saint Mary's Huskies have a chance to get some payback on the New Brunswick Varsity Reds tonight.

The Huskies visit the Aitken Centre in Fredericton, where a sellout crowd is anticipated for the deciding Game 3 of the Atlantic University Sport men's hockey final.

It has been a year and six days since the Varsity Reds hoisted the AUS banner at the Halifax Forum after beating the Huskies in overtime in front of their home crowd.

"It would feel great to go into their barn and get a little redemption from last year," said Huskies forward Colin Power. "That's certainly in the

Looking back

Past AUS men's hockey champions:

- 2008 — UNB
- 2007 — Moncton
- 2006 — Acadia
- 2005 — Moncton
- 2004 — St. F.X.
- 2003 — UNB
- 2002 — Saint Mary's

back of our heads."

Added Huskies goaltender Brandon Verge: "We want to go in their barn and ruin the party, for sure."

The Huskies are coming off a 3-2 home win on Sunday that drew them even in the best-of-three series.

The games have been intense, hard-hitting affairs, and you wouldn't know both teams already have tickets punched to next

week's University Cup in Thunder Bay, Ont.

"There's a rivalry here and we want to go into nationals as AUS champions, not runner-ups," said Power.

The Huskies' AUS-leading power play has continued to click in the post-season, operating at a 22.9 per cent clip. Captain and conference MVP Marc Rancourt leads the Huskies with four goals and four assists in six games, while Fall River's Verge is sporting a 2.86 goals-against average in six starts.

It's been seven years since the Huskies won an AUS banner.

"I'm looking forward to it — it's going to be exciting, it's going to be nerve-racking, but it's going to be a lot of fun," said Verge. "Hopefully, we can pull it out."

Arsenault taking part in Canada Cup of Curling

CURLING Mayflower's Mary-Anne Arsenault will be in action today at the Canada Cup of Curling in Yorkton, Sask.

Arsenault, who is with a new rink after winning last year's Nova Scotia women's championship, plays Shannon Kleibrink at 3:30 p.m. and Shelly Mid-daugh at 7:30 p.m.

Arsenault, with teammates Kay Zinck, Laine Peters and Theresa Breen, was runner-up at this year's provincial Scotties, losing in the final to Dartmouth's Nancy McConnery.

The playoffs begin Saturday and the final is Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

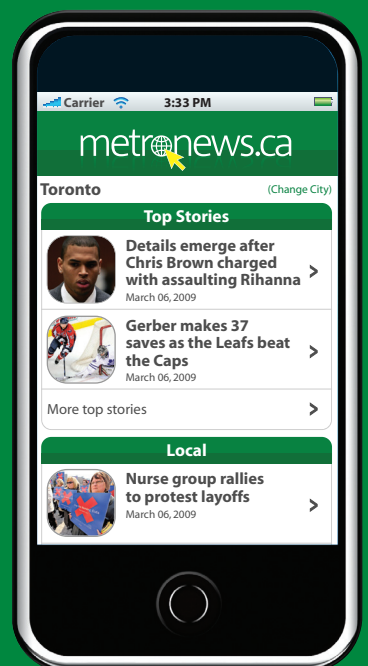
QMJHL Lower Sackville's Ben Duffy of the P.E.I. Rocket has been named his team's winner of the QMJHL scholastic player of the month award for February. The 16-year-old was also named his team's rookie of the year.

METRO HALIFAX

For a player-by-player season-in-review of the Halifax Mooseheads, visit Matthew Wuest's Q Files blog at:
metronews.ca/qfiles

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Metro Drive

World Car finalists

Ford Fiesta, Toyota iQ, and Volkswagen Golf VI have been named the finalists for the 2009 World Car Award. The top three entries for the World Car Design of the Year were Citroën C5 Sedan/C5 Tourer, Fiat 500, and Jaguar XF. The winners will be named at the New York International Auto Show April 9.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Heading out on hybrid highway

Honda Insight Hybrid takes the next giant step in environmentally-friendly vehicles

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada



Honda has passed the next great milestone on the road to a greener future with the 2010 Insight Hybrid.

Smaller than a Honda Civic, the Insight five-door hatchback seats five adults, has a flat cargo floor with the back seat folded and can travel up to 640 kilometre on one 40-litre tank of gas.

The Insight doesn't go on sale until Earth Day (April 22) and pricing has yet to be announced, but it will be "competitive" with its main rival, the Toyota Prius.

The heart of the Insight is its fifth generation IMA (Integrated Motor Assist) system that first bowed on the original two-seat Honda Insight a decade ago.

IMA uses energy stored in a battery pack to provide extra power to the engine when needed. What is different is the new IMA allows the Insight to run on pure battery power under certain low load conditions.

A 1.3-litre, four-cylinder gasoline engine and a 10-kilowatt electric motor are the power source of the IMA system. Combined, they produce 98 hp and 123 lb/ft of torque. An ultra-thin brushless DC motor is located between the engine and the CVT transmission. During acceleration, the motor adds power. Under braking or gentle deceleration, it acts as a generator capturing kinetic energy to recharge the battery.

When you come to a stop, the engine turns off and the Insight runs on the battery. When you move off, the engine comes back



The 2010 Honda Insight Hybrid goes on sale April 22 (Earth Day) with seating for five adults and an estimated average combined fuel consumption of 4.7L/100 km or 60 mpg.



The Honda Insight Hybrid sports a 1.3-litre SOHC four-cylinder engine and a 10-kilowatt electric motor for a combined 98 hp and 123 lb/ft of torque provide power.

on. Honda calls this Idle Stop.

The seven-module nickel

metal hydride (Ni-MH) battery is composed of 84 D-size (1.2 volt) cells giving a

total of 100.8 volts and a capacity of 5.7 ampere-hours. Because it has fewer than

the 11 modules in the Civic Hybrid, Honda engineers were able to place it under the floor along with the Intelligent Power Unit (IPU) that controls the IMA system. Besides the battery pack, the IPU contains the power control unit (ECU) and electric control unit (ECU) along with the cooling system for the battery pack.

Despite its complexity, the Insight is straightforward to drive, but there are some interesting extras.

The layout of the instrument panel is like the Civic with an upper tier for the digital speed readout and a lower tier for the tachometre and fuel level. But on the upper level, the speed (shown in numerals) is backed by a colour band that is coloured blue when fuel is being used aggressively. It turns blue-green when the

2010 Honda Insight

Type: Compact hybrid hatchback

Price: N/A

Engine: 1.3-litre SOHC inline four-cylinder engine and 10 kilowatt electric motor (98 hp, 123 lb/ft)

Drive method: front-engine, front-wheel drive

Fuel economy: (Estimated) 4.8/4.5/4.7L/100 km (58/62/60 mpg) city/highway/combined

driving style is moderate and then green when fuel is being consumed efficiently. So, at a glance you can tell if you are being good or bad to the environment.

There will be two trim levels in Canada starting with the LX that features climate control, power locks/windows/doors, remote entry, cruise control and more.

The EX adds stability control, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted paddle shifters, Honda's navigation system with bilingual voice recognition and Bluetooth connectivity.

Unsaid at the unveiling of the Insight was the sense Honda is turning its attention to positioning itself as the "affordable" green car company as the slightly larger Civic Hybrid will continue to be sold on the same showroom floor.

And with the 2010 Insight, Honda has made a great first step in that direction.

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Having some fun with potholes

Try not to get swallowed up this year while driving around the city

It was a dark and stormy night. It was raining so hard everyone had to have their wipers on at top speed—even the pedestrians.

It was already hard to spot the potholes, but now that they were full of wa-

ter, you couldn't tell what was just a puddle and what was a crater. Up ahead were two lurking potholes. To stay in my lane, I had to drive through at least one. I know I was going to pick the wrong one, just like I always pick the wrong line

at McDonald's.

So I drive into this pothole and emerge about 11 minutes later.

OK, slight exaggeration, but it was big. Big enough that when the left front wheel dropped into it, and the suspension bottomed

out with a big THUD, I yelled out some deity's name in vain.

Apparently, this was not the only pothole in the city of Toronto. Myles Currie, the city's director of transportation services, told me that in 2008 the city fixed

277,000 potholes. So far this year, it has already fixed about 75,000, almost 100 per cent more than for the same three-month period in 2008.

Currie "filled me in," pun intended, on some pothole fun facts.

The main contributor to how many potholes are created is the number of freeze-thaw cycles we get. When it's above freezing, melting snow and ice creeps into cracks to get below the road. Then when things freeze shortly after, the below-the-road water becomes ice, which expands and pushes up the asphalt. Then when vehicles drive over that pushed-up asphalt, it usually breaks, and voila, a pretty pothole.

"We've already had about 17 of those cycles this past winter, that's why we have such an increase in potholes over last year," said Currie. Normally, the peak time for freeze-thaw cycles starts in late February and extends to the beginning of May (a.k.a. pothole spawning season).

But this winter Toronto has been in juicy freeze-thaw mode since mid-December.

Because the city knew a bumper crop was coming, it increased the number of crews on daily pothole repair duty to 30 or 40 from

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

last year's norm of about 15. A crew is made up of two or three workers.

The repair process is not complex.

"We do our best to sweep out any debris from the hole, then fill it in with hot asphalt, tamp it, then move on to the next one," Currie said. Forty crews can usually fix about 2,500 potholes a day, which works out to about \$25 per repair.

So far, the city has already spent about \$1 million to repair those 75,000 holes in 2009, and figures it spent \$6.9 million to attend to those 277,000 holes that showed up in 2008.

If holes get really big, workers have to square it off, fill it in, and roll it.

"That's why we really want to hear from the public," Currie said. "Because our obvious preference is to get to these potholes when they're smaller."

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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"Pothole spawning season" usually starts in late February and extends to the beginning of May.

Lotus unveils latest research engine

Lotus Engineering unveiled its latest research into engine efficiency at the recent 79th International Geneva Motor Show.

The Omnivore engine concept has the potential to significantly increase fuel efficiency for sustainable alcohol-based fuels, which increases the

prospect of a greater amount of vehicle miles travelled using renewable fuels.

On display was a single-cylinder research engine

monoblock that demonstrates the novel architecture designed for high thermal efficiency when fuelled on any alcohol-based fuel or gasoline.

The Omnivore concept features an innovative variable compression ratio system and uses a two-stroke operating cycle with direct fuel injection. It is ideally

suited to flex-fuel operation with a higher degree of optimization than is possible with existing four-stroke engines.

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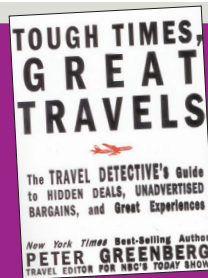


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Increasing numbers of business travellers are foregoing executive-class seats and flying economy, especially in Europe, the International Air Transport Association said yesterday. **REUTERS**

Travel

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Armchair travel

If you think a vacation is out of reach this year, sit down and have a look at *Tough Times, Great Travels* (Rodale, \$10.95) by Peter Greenberg. The author, who is the travel editor of NBC's *Today Show*, is confident that if you know the ins and outs of scoring travel deals, you'll be able to hit the beach even in the leanest of times. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

An indie traveller's Caribbean guide

If all-inclusive resorts bore you to tears, strike out on your own

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada



For many of us, the Caribbean equates to resorts, cruise ships and neatly packaged-up holidays. But with so many islands offering so many different experiences, it seems a bit of a shame to not attempt a bit of an island hop.

Despite the focus on package tourism, it is surprisingly easy to travel around the Caribbean independently — it's just a case of knowing where to look.

Getting there

The first step of island hopping is choosing the first base. It will invariably work out cheaper to go in a circle, arriving at and departing from the same Caribbean island with a return flight from Canada, perhaps via a hub in the U.S. Major Caribbean entry points are Antigua, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. It may be worth paying slightly more to start at one of the smaller islands in the Lesser Antilles (such as St. Maarten or Antigua), as flights between the smaller islands tend to be much cheaper.

Getting around

With so many islands so close together, it would seem logical that there would be good ferry services between them. Alas, logic doesn't always apply to the Caribbean.

Good services can be found between the U.S. Vir-



Exploring a bay in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. If you're looking to find your own way around the Caribbean on a budget, then local buses, family-run guesthouses and the fare served up at beach shacks and rum shops will among the services you'll rely on.

"With so many islands so close together, it would seem logical there would be good ferry services between them. Alas, logic doesn't always apply to the Caribbean."

gin Islands and British Virgin Islands, and between islands in the same nation (such as St. Kitts and Nevis). Otherwise, there are services between St. Maarten and Anguilla, St. Barths and Saba, a highly unreliable occasional service from Antigua to Montserrat, and L'Express des Iles, express-des-iles.com, which ploughs between St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica and Guadeloupe.

Given the perplexing lack of sea transport, small

prop planes are the most common way to get between islands. Island-hoppers will almost inevitably end up on a LIAT flight, liatairline.com.

LIAT serves 21 Caribbean destinations, but be warned — it has colloquial nicknames such as Leave Island Any Time and Luggage In Another Territory. Its major hubs are Barbados, Antigua and Trinidad, and the further in advance the tickets are bought, the cheaper

they tend to be.

Other airlines that you may come across are American Eagle (San Juan, Puerto Rico), WinAir (St. Martin) and Air Jamaica.

On-island transport

Car hire is available on just about every island in the region, and most of the time it just involves signing a few documents and handing over a small sum at the local police station.

Taxis are also readily available, but can get quite expensive. Often a cost-effective measure is to group together with two or three other travellers and hire a driver for the day at a pre-agreed price. By far the most fun option, however,

On the web

- Skyscanner, skyscanner.net, and Kayak, kayak.com, are useful starting points for prices and routes when it comes to flights.
- LIAT's fleet of small prop planes will get you to and from many Caribbean islands. Book well in advance at liatairline.com to save on airfare.
- For information on guesthouses and other unique and budget-friendly accommodations, head to Hostelworld, hostelworld.com.

is taking a local bus.

These aren't buses as we'd recognize them — they're usually brightly painted mini-vans that plough a set route, picking passengers up absolutely anywhere on the way.

They're cheap, but expect to be sandwiched into a small seat, surrounded by pets and shopping bags, whilst ear-splitting reggae or soca music blasts out of the stereo. Generally the routes link major towns, and they often don't go near isolated resort areas.

Accommodation

The Caribbean islands aren't all about resorts — although your travel agent probably doesn't want you to know that. Even on the most expensive islands, there are usually options for those travelling on a lower budget.

These are usually small, family-run guesthouses that aren't particularly

flashy, but they're usually clean and do the job nicely. It's rare to find guesthouses on the beach — they're usually a couple of blocks back or in towns — but rooms can usually be found for under \$80 per night.

Finding out about these guesthouses can be a problem, but there are a few places to look. Some will show up on kayak.com but they usually need to be contacted by phone. Hostelworld, hostelworld.com, is a better bet. Lonely Planet's Caribbean Islands lists a decent selection, and the tourist board websites of the individual islands usually have a list of accommodations.

Eating out

Food can be inordinately expensive in the Caribbean — particularly given that the quality isn't always that good. The secret is to avoid the restaurants and go where the locals go.

Shabby-looking cafés, beach shacks and rum shops will usually provide a good feed without breaking the bank. Menu choices will be limited (often either "the chicken" or "the fish") and you'll get heartily sick of rice and peas after a couple of weeks, but the portions are usually fairly big.

The classic example is in Grand Anse, St. Maarten. The village is crammed with hugely expensive restaurants, but the lolos (little wooden shacks) that sit near them serve up pretty good fare on the cheap.

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Disneyland Hong Kong on hold

Walt Disney Co. has put the expansion of its Hong Kong theme park on hold after failing to agree with the city's government on a cash infusion, the company said yesterday. Visitor numbers and Hong Kong tourism have been bogged down as the recession takes hold. **REUTERS**

travel **17**

Selling betel nut and sex

The **Travel Junkie**
Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Tourists passing through the streets of Taiwan may notice an unusual cultural phenomenon. It looks like a scene from Amsterdam's Red Light district, with scantily-clad girls soliciting customers from neon-lit boxes. Tourists might assume these ladies are sex workers, but, here on the hazy streets of Taoyan, a city an hour outside of Taipei, the girls aren't selling sex. They're selling betel nut.

Consumed throughout South East Asia, betel nut, from the fruit of the betel nut palm, is a mild stimulant similar to tobacco. Chewing it is a ceremonial tradition, and a habit associated with Taiwanese identity and masculinity. It's common to see its byproducts: Red stained



In Taoyan, tourists will spot the controversial Betel Nut Beauties at roadside kiosks selling the chewing tobacco-like stimulant.

teeth and sidewalks covered in gobs of scarlet spit.

Today, many users are long-distance truck drivers looking for a quick pick-me-up. Though a known carcinogen, the highly demanded product is sold along freeway on-ramps.

To make the product more desirable to consumers, vendors employ young, attractive women known as Binlan Xi Shi or

Betel Nut Beauties.

They stand in provocative outfits at roadside booths, selling bags of betel nut to commuters. There are an estimated 60,000 booths, with thousands of girls working in the industry. They are typically 18- to 25-years-old, making \$30,000 to \$40,000 Taiwanese new dollars per month (about \$1,100 to \$1,500).

With kiosks concentrat-

ed in the Taoyan area, the competition is fierce. The girls are paid based on their number of clients, so there is a financial incentive to dress erotically to attract customers. Costumed in pink lace teddies and leopard print lingerie, many of the girls wear more blue eyeshadow than fabric.

In this relatively conservative country, Betel Nut Beauties have become a controversial topic. Locals argue that their outfits are too sexy, it exploits women and is "a plight on the Taiwanese landscape." Others chalk it up to marketing, likening the beauties to cigarette girls of the 1930s.

Ching Jie Lee, a 22-year-old Betel Nut Beauty, doesn't understand why there's such stigma surrounding her line of work. "We are not prostitutes. It's a normal job, like anything else," she says. "I chose this job and my family is proud of me ... as long as I don't wear anything too short."

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Viktor and Rolf aim to revive 'happy travel'

STYLE Quirky Dutch fashion label Viktor & Rolf has just designed a range of luxury luggage for Samsonite Black Label. The playful and extravagant collection is inspired by the theme of "happy travel" and plays up the duo's reputation for the surreal and theatrical.

"Over the years, travel has become so difficult," Viktor Horsting explains. "We wanted to recapture a more childlike feeling of travel." The provocative luggage range features bows, patent trims and



Viktor & Rolf's new luggage for Samsonite Black Label.

purse clasps, all in hues of black, midnight blue and scarlet. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

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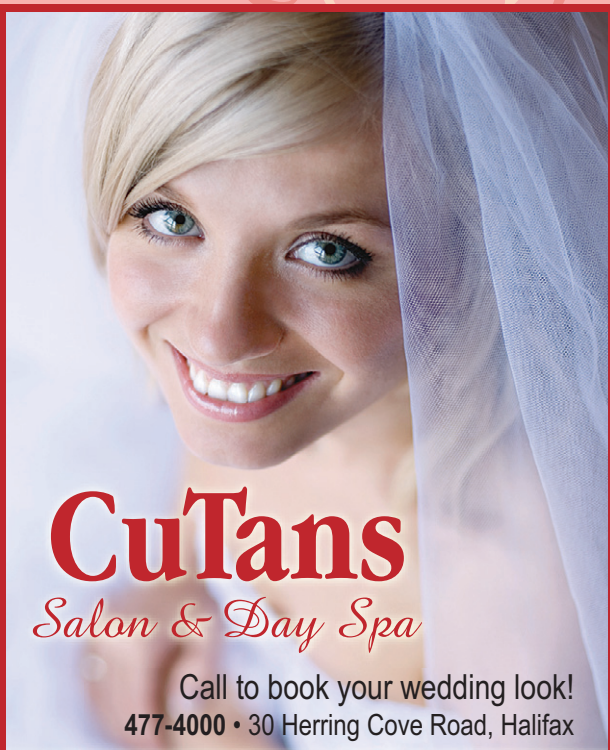
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Kanye guest on Cleveland

As if performing on American Idol last Wednesday wasn't enough, Kanye West capped off a week of work at Fox on Thursday by sitting in on a table read of new animated sitcom The Cleveland Show — a Family Guy spin-off. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



The unsigned

Kirsten Dunst has not signed on for Spider-Man 4. Director Sam Raimi admitted the actress has not yet confirmed she will reprise her role as Mary Jane Watson in the super-hero franchise. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Taking the recession on tour

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

When U2 put out an announcement about their North American tour recently, there was one detail in the press release that stood out: \$30 tickets.

It's a move, the band's manager Paul McGuinness said, that was designed to "ensure that U2 fans can purchase a great priced ticket with a guaranteed great view."

While that's a welcomed gesture from thousands of followers who are struggling to make ends meet during this recession, it could have also been a way to make sure the band's tour will be a sold out event.

It's likely U2 would have sold plenty of tickets any-

Riding the Recession

way, and many seats are either \$55 or \$85, but they're not the only act that seems nervous about touring during this major economic downturn.

"We're seeing plenty of reaction to the economy in terms of pricing, from lay-away plans at the festivals to packaging of artists, to multi-tiered pricing," says Billboard Magazine's Ray Waddell.

So far, however, touring hasn't suffered. Waddell says this year looks "very solid" so far, as huge acts like Billy Joel, Taylor Swift and

Nickelback are hitting the road. But, he cautions, "There will be some impact at some point from unemployment and fear."

While mainstream musicians such as Britney Spears might still bring in the big bucks, it's mid-range groups and even indie bands that could suffer.



Michael Hershfield, CEO of Toronto-based peer-to-peer ticket brokerage LiveSutub, says more and more independent acts tour these days and that has saturated the market. "Because of that," he says, "when consumers' wallets are tight they're not going to go out as many nights as they used to."

"I haven't noticed anything yet," says Steven Himmelfarb, a booker who represents

Tickets for U2's upcoming tour are selling for as little as \$30.

smaller acts like Tokyo Police Club. "All the cheaper ticket shows — \$10 to \$20 — I have not noticed any difference. There is a looming fear that might change instantly though."

If touring acts aren't feeling the recession yet, some venues are. In Halifax the legendary Marquee Club — the place where Sloan got their start — closed down in January. "It has been vastly unprofitable," owner Victor Syperek told CBC News late last year.

Waddell thinks more venues could shutter their doors too. He points to Toad's Place, a famous venue in Virginia, as a sign that some clubs just can't beat the recession.

"There is no substitute for 'brand equity,' but love and history can't keep the

"We're seeing plenty of reaction to the economy in terms of pricing." Ray Waddell, Billboard Magazine

doors open," he explains.

Clubs might be at risk, but it's the summer festival that could suffer the most. There's a real chance big name concerts like Chicago's Lollapalooza or Warped Tour could see sponsorship pulled as companies cut back on marketing, and ticket prices aren't cheap.

"Festivals are the most nervous," says Himmelfarb. "They've been cutting back, but because they're trying to build a brand, it's hard for them to take a year off and ... duck the recession."

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
3/18/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "Namaste" (N)	Life on Mars	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)	Being Erica (N) (DVS)	Lost "Namaste" (N)	Law & Order		
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Next Great Prime Minister			CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)	Les Invincibles (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal		
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY	
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (HDTV) (SC)	Domgages et intérêts (SC)	TVA 22 heures		
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	(8:02) Life on Mars		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)	Life "3 Women" (N)	News (N)		
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Criminal Minds (N)	American Idol	News (N)		
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)	American Idol		Fox First	
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Chopping Block (N)	Life "3 Women" (N)	Law & Order		
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Kevin Gaudet.	CBC News: The National	Capricorn		
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	John Denver: The Wildlife Concert		Suze Orman: Women & Money			
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Great Performances "Hitman: David Foster and Friends"		Heart Healthy		
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)		Chemin du golf	Rire et délire	Wipeout (SC)	Bob Gratton	Bob Gratton	110 pour cent	
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call	
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitz		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Approach	Quest-Card	19th Hole	Top 10	Lessons	Haney Project	Haney Project
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Connected		Baseball World Classic -- Teams TBA. (HDTV) From Dolphin Stadium in Miami. (Live)						Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On		WWE Monday Night Raw			Cabby Unlimit	NBA Basketball	
news	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Boxing: Lewis vs. Rahman	NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Calgary		Flames.	
	43	43	43	FAM	Han. Montana	Sonny Chance	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10: Alien	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken
	26	26	26	TREE	Wonder Pets	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	March Break	March Break	In Real Life		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior	Bounty Hunter	Falcon Beach
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Canadian Geographic		Caughnaw		APTN National News: Contact		Miywayawin
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live				Sunset Park ** (1996, Comedy) Rhea Perlman.				Harlem Heights
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera
sports	25	25	25	CMT	All About	All About	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show
	153	153	153	COURT	Struggle for Justice		World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified		Police Videos
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs "Tar Rigger"		Deadliest Catch		Mayday
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hide Potential
	46	46	46	HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Good Wives Club"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	Video on Trial	disBand		Redemption	Redemption	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Confessions of a Teen Idol		Confessions
	201	201	201	M1	(6:15) Peaceful Warrior (2006, Drama)		(8:25) The Ruins ** (2008, Horror)				Forgetting Sarah Marshall *** (2008)		
	48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman Costa Rica.		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter
family	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne		Galaxy Quest *** (1999, Science Fiction) Tim Allen.			Fresh Prince	
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:10) Cutthroat Island ** (1995)			(8:20) Crossover * (1980, Drama)			Scream 3 *** (2000, Horror)		
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	Big Love
	40	40	40	SLICE	The Mom Show		Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 "Prodigy"		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "Recycling"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Fight Night		
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	56	34	34	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Humanima	Mixeur	Oui, mais ** (2001, Drame), Gérard Jugnot		Orange Juice	Peur	
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	SOUL "Exile" (N)		Driven-Vision
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Medium		Medium		Mediums
	22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)	90210 (HDTV)			WGN News

critics'corner

Anna and Kristina's Grocery Bag

An apple a day keeps the doctor away, but a clove of garlic a day keeps everyone away. Just kidding; garlic is good for you, and there are ways to avoid the lethal breath. In this new episode, Anna and Kristina test-drive a cookbook in which every recipe contains garlic. They also compare modern mincing tools to that old kitchen standby, a good chef's knife. 9 PM on W



Canada's Next Great Prime Minister

It's all about the best and the brightest in this now-annual special, hosted for the first time by Alex Trebek ("Jeopardy!"). Young men and women use their intelligence to compete for an internship, sharing their ideas for improving the country with four former prime ministers. 8 PM on CBC

Better Off Ted

Satire, they say, is what closes on Saturday night, but this sharp, funny new sitcom lights up Wednesdays with the misadventures of Ted (Jay Harrington), a nice guy thrust into dubious assignments by his overlords at Veridian Dynamics. In the premiere, Ted frets when his boss (Portia de Rossi, "Arrested Development") informs him he must persuade a brilliant research scientist (Jonathan Slavin) to be cryogenically frozen as part of an experiment. 9:30 PM on ABC



For March 17th

- 9 Lady Gaga - Lovegame
- 8 All American Rejects - Gives You Hell
- 7 Britney Spears - If U Seek Amy
- 6 Classified - Anybody Listening
- 5 Akon Ft Lil Wayne - I'm So Paid
- 4 Karl Wolf Ft Culture - Africa
- 3 Eminem Ft 50 Cent & Dr. Dre - Crack A Bottle
- 2 Flo Rida - Right Round
- 1 Soulja Boy Ft. Sammie - Kiss Me Thru The Phone.

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Watchmen's Patrick Wilson and his wife, actress Dagmara Dominczyk, are expecting their second child, usmagazine.com exclusively reports. Asked Monday if another little one is on the way, Wilson, 35, told Us, "Yes, we're about halfway there." **USMAGAZINE.COM**

RIGHT International Women's Day Dinner and Silent Auction Organizer Anita King (left) with Jennifer Lang at the World Trade Centre event.



LEFT Comedienne Catherine Robertson (left) with MC Nikki Balch at International Women's Day Dinner and Silent Auction.



RIGHT Boom Boom Lubalicious at the International Women's Day Dinner for Bryony House.

Cheers to charity

GOOD CAUSE Comedy and music for a good cause took over the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax on Saturday night. The International Women's Day Dinner and Silent Auction treated guests to some laughs and raised money for Bryony House. On the way downtown, I ran into a group of well-dressed wedding guests who were celebrating at the Marriott Harbourfront. After a quick stop, it was on to Stayners Wharf to catch Brett Ryan's first set of the night. He was warming the place up for their seventh annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations. And speaking of the most Irish of days, I managed to catch two parades in

celebration. Saturday morning the North End of Halifax was green from the Hydrostone Market to St Patrick's Church. Then on Sunday afternoon a group of Wheaten Terrier owners took their annual St. Paddy's walk along the Halifax waterfront.

HalifaxScene

Jamie Paterson

metronews.ca/halifaxscene



RIGHT Toasting the happy couple! Deborah Totino celebrates the union of Dustin and Tasha Larade at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront.



ABOVE Happy St. Patrick's Day! Heather Cook leads the annual Wheaten Walk along the Halifax waterfront.



ABOVE Brett Ryan entertains the crowd at Stayner's Wharf.



ABOVE Nova Scotia singer-songwriter Lenny Gallant out on the town Saturday Night.

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Daly a new daddy

Carson Daly is a new dad, Usmagazine.com has confirmed. The Last Call with Carson Daly host, 35, and girlfriend Siri Pinter welcomed a baby boy named Jackson James Daly on Sunday. USMAGAZINE.COM



Outspoken designer silenced

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada



One draped skirt too many got Vancouver designer Genevieve Graham sent home from Project Runway Canada last night.

Designers had to create a dress for top Canadian model Coco Rocha to wear to a red carpet event during New York fashion week.

The judges thought Graham's silky, gold and crème coloured dress was too demure and "safe" for a model of Rocha's stature to wear. While host Iman praised Graham as a strong designer, she also said the judges were tired of seeing the same draped-skirt designs from her, challenge after challenge, sending her home.

Graham, 31, believes the judges didn't necessarily understand her ideas and she feels proud to have stayed true to her own design vision on the show.

"The judges didn't get my style at all but I wasn't going to change what I do. I wasn't willing to compromise my work," she said.

Graham sparred verbally

"Fashion has a lot of personal preference — that's why I chose to take what the judges said with a grain of salt."

Genevieve Graham, Vancouver designer

with judges in several episodes, often dismissing their criticisms outright, and her defensive attitude ultimately didn't endear her to them in the long run, something she's fine with.

"Fashion has a lot of personal preference — that's why I chose to take what the judges said with a grain of salt. I think they definitely have their aesthetic favourites," Graham said.

With her barbed, camera-ready denouncements of other designers' dresses and cocky attitude to her own designs, Graham didn't shy away from speaking her mind on the show. She clashed with several of the other designers, particularly Toronto designer Jeff



Genevieve Graham says Project Runway Canada showed her tough side and not her softer one, but still she has no regrets.

Mackinnon who she took to task for lying about hand-stitching he had drawn on.

While Graham insists she's not the ice queen some people have made her out to be, she makes no apologies for sticking to her guns.

"I wish they had shown me smiling and laughing

more because I do have a really soft side. But at the end of the day, I am really confident in my work. You have to be confident in this industry or you can't survive — it's really cutthroat," Graham said.

She feels doing the show was a

great experience and gave her another stepping stone to traverse in the industry that she loves.

"I learned a lot about my skills and what I could and couldn't do. I have no regrets in my life — everything you do you learn from."

Watch

• Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights on Global.

Dora still a good role model?

IMAGE Parents, no need to lock Dora the Explorer away from your daughters, say the guardians of the popular TV cartoon character and toy line.

U.S. cable TV network Nickelodeon and toymaker Mattel vowed Monday that plans to make a "tween" Dora doll would not undermine the wholesomeness of the educational bilingual star who has a sidekick monkey, map, compass and backpack. Parents had voiced fears and complaints that a tween Dora with long hair, long legs and a trendy makeover was not in keeping with the character's outdoor spirit and would prove a poor role model.

"We don't need another Bratz phenomenon for pre-schoolers. I don't want my daughter asking for mini skirts and lip gloss to continue her Dora obsession," wrote Elizabeth Sloan, 30, to the Pensacola News Journal. **REUTERS**

Family Guy wins lawsuit over song

COURTS Creators of the television show Family Guy did not infringe copyright when they transformed the song When You Wish Upon a Star for comical use in an episode, a U.S. judge ruled Monday.

Music Publisher Bourne Co., the U.S. copyright owner of the song made famous in Walt Disney's Pinocchio, sued Fox Broadcasting Co., creator Seth MacFarlane and producers in October 2007 for copyright breach. The lawsuit said the song I Need a Jew, featured in an episode, was a thinly veiled copy of the music from When You Wish Upon a Star coupled with "new anti-Semitic lyrics" and had done damage to the original. **REUTERS**

Rose Byrne's date with destiny

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



It's an interesting question: If you could find out the day you were going to die, would you want to know the answer?

It's also precisely the predicament the main characters in the new thriller Knowing stumble into when a mysterious time capsule is unearthed. But for one of the film's stars, Rose Byrne, the answer to that question isn't so cut and dry.

"When maybe, but not

how," admitted the rising Australian star with a chuckle during a recent interview. "I don't want to know how."

For someone so willing to learn about her date with destiny, Byrne has taken a somewhat opposite stance with her career — opting to strategize how she'll succeed in showbiz without concern as to when it would happen.

As such, the 29-year old is finally coming into her own in Hollywood thanks to carefully-picked movies like Knowing (in theatres Friday) and hit TV show Damages — for which she earned a Gold-

"Director, director, director. Someone who's a visionary and if I felt like (I was in) safe hands."

Actress Rose Byrne on how she picks roles

en Globe nomination. With 30 film and TV credits under her belt since she began acting in Sydney as a teen, she has been patient. So what has motivated her choices?

"Director, director, direc-

tor. Someone who's a visionary and if I felt like (I was in) safe hands," said Byrne adding that she has also searched for intricate characters. "Anything that makes me curious is a good thing."

Byrne has put no restrictions on those choices either. Whether it's playing Brad Pitt's lover in a big Hollywood blockbuster like Troy or spending time in Halifax filming the independent dark comedy Just Buried. "Australians are very proud," she admits, while adding success at home can be tenuous.



Rose Byrne stars in Knowing.

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Taylor Swift has no problems talking about dating — and boys — but don't ask her about sex. "I think when you talk about virginity and sex publicly, people just automatically picture you naked," the 19-year-old singer tells Allure for its April issue. **PEOPLE.COM**

Swift doesn't discuss sex

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse pleads not guilty

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse cracked her knuckles, adjusted her beehive — and to the delight of the 20 reporters in a London courtroom — spoke clearly from behind a clear plastic shield on the stand Tuesday morning, people.com reports.

Uttering only a few lines during a 15-minute hearing in the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, Winehouse proudly proclaimed her name as Amy Jade Civil — her married name. And, leaning forward to speak through a gap in the plastic, she pleaded "not guilty" when a charge of common assault against Sherene Flash was put to her.

The assault is alleged to have happened in September 2008 in Berkeley Square, London, at a high society ball.

Winehouse, 25, was dressed in a summery floral print, low-cut dress, which revealed her many tattoos and her bra strap, and four-inch pink stilettos. Asked at one point, as she fidgeted with her hair, if she was okay, she turned a security guard and said, "Me? I'm alright."

Watching the proceedings from a few feet away was her father Mitch and a minder, who had driven her down to the court from her new home in Barnet, north London. District judge and chief magistrate Timothy Workman set a trial date of July 23 and Winehouse was remanded on bail.

Leaving the hearing, the singer strutted and posed for the gathered photographers before being whisked away.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Natasha's brain injury

ACCIDENT Actress Natasha Richardson, a member of Britain's Redgrave theatrical dynasty, was severely injured while skiing at a Canadian resort and was returned to New York yesterday with her husband, actor Liam Neeson, according to media reports.

The New York Post, New York Daily News and London's Evening Standard newspapers all said Richardson, 45, the daughter of the actress and activist Vanessa Redgrave, suffered a life-threatening brain injury. But the severity of her condition could not be confirmed as her British and U.S. representatives repeatedly declined comment.

Richardson was skiing at the Mont Tremblant resort, about 75 miles (120 km) north of Montreal, when

she fell on Monday during a private skiing lesson. The resort said the actress appeared to be in good condition after the fall but later felt unwell. She was taken first to a local hospital and then to the Montreal hospital.

The Toronto Star said one of its reporters saw Richardson, wrapped in blankets and lying on a stretcher with Neeson nearby as she was placed in an ambulance outside Hopital du Sacre-Coeur where she had been taken. The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said Richardson left Canada on Tuesday afternoon on a private plane, accompanied by medical staff.

REUTERS



Goldstein suing jet company for damages

LEGAL DJ AM, Adam Goldstein, has taken a leaf out of mate Travis Barker's book in suing the company who owned the Learjet which almost became his fiery coffin last year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

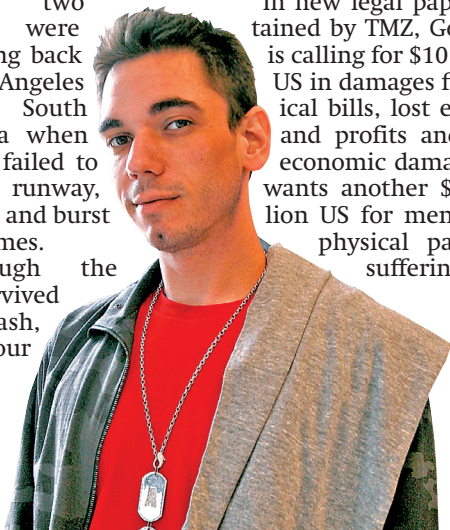
The two friends were travelling back to Los Angeles from South Carolina when the jet failed to clear a runway, crashed and burst into flames.

Although the pair survived the crash, their four

friends weren't so lucky, and now the music men are determined to put things right in their memory, and gain some compensation for the third degree burns they both suffered.

In new legal papers, obtained by TMZ, Goldstein is calling for \$10 million US in damages for medical bills, lost earnings and profits and other economic damages. He wants another \$10 million US for mental and physical pain and suffering.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Competition still on, says Tyra

CAREER After an New York City casting call for America's Next Top Model turned ugly Saturday as hundreds of hopefuls were caught in a stampede resulting in three arrests and six injuries, the show's host and executive producer Tyra Banks tells aspiring models that they will still have a chance to compete, usmagazine.com reports.

"To all the Top Model hopefuls who were affected by the New York casting, we are doing everything we can to make sure that all the girls who weren't seen, get an opportunity to audition — we'll update you on our plans very soon," Banks said in a statement Monday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Zellweger blames fans for her tardiness

PEOPLE Renee Zellweger says her fans make her late, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Bridget Jones star admits she regularly keeps friends and colleagues waiting, but blames her poor time keeping on spending time with the public.

She said: "I have missed flights, missed ferries, missed taxi cabs and made my friends wait because of it. I'm learning to be better at it but I'll still feel bad if I can't stop to talk to someone."

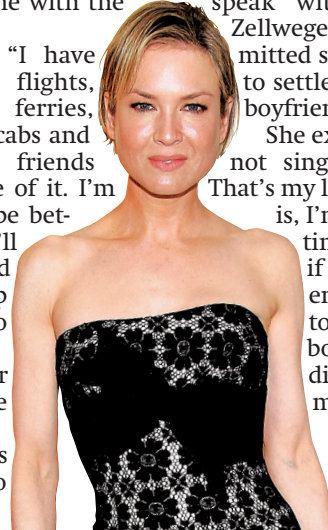
Despite her tardiness, the 39-year-old actress feels obliged to

speak to people on the streets because she doesn't want to let anybody down. She explained: "I hate to disappoint them, and I'm not very good at saying no."

Though she always manages to find the time to speak with her fans, Zellweger recently admitted she is too busy to settle down with a boyfriend.

She explained: "I'm not single, I'm busy. That's my line. The thing is, I'm away all the time. I suppose if I sat still long enough to get to know somebody beyond a dinner date, maybe."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Surgery before Jackson show?

IMAGE Before Michael Jackson takes the stage this summer for his farewell shows at London's O2 Arena, he's allegedly making a stop at the doctor's office.

"Michael has consulted some of the world's best cosmetologists and surgeons in preparation for this comeback," writer Ian Halperin tells the Sun. Jackson's reps deny the claims, but then again they also say the only work he's ever had done is one nose job to help him breathe.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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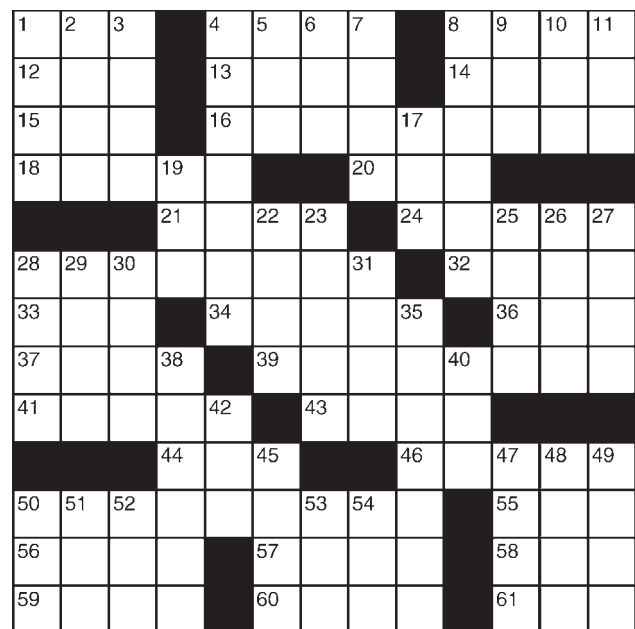




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Take Five



Crossword across

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Help | 36 Born |
| 4 Site of Apra Harbor | 37 Bedouin |
| 8 Roosevelt successor | 39 "Gran Torino" star |
| 12 Omega preceder | 41 Minion of Satan |
| 13 Incite | 43 Approach |
| 14 Shrek, for one | 44 Existed |
| 15 Golfer Ernie | 46 U-Haul competitor |
| 16 Classic Cadillac | 50 Tinseltown |
| 18 "Unleaded" brew | 55 Water (Fr.) |
| 20 Family | 56 Ontario neighbor |
| 21 Jamie of "M*A*S*H" | 57 Florence's river |
| 24 Turning point | 58 Pompous sort |
| 28 Robin Hood's forest | 59 Require |
| 32 Green land | 60 Verse |
| 33 Whammy | 61 Allow |
| 34 Some wrestling matches | |

Crossword down

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mimicked | 19 A cont. | 38 Partook at |
| 2 Last word in | 22 Libertine | kegling |
| Gilligan's theme | 23 Typeface | 40 Distort |
| 3 Platter | option | 42 Aye canceler |
| 4 Hearty laughs | 25 Provider of | 45 Trade |
| 5 It starts with | veritas | 47 Option from |
| "http:" | 26 Sandwich | Howie |
| 6 Time of your | treat | 48 Facility |
| life? | 27 Prepared to | 49 Oxidation |
| 7 Timid | drive | 50 Coop dweller |
| 8 Local, to a colle- | 28 Roe source | 51 Raw rock |
| gian | 29 Present | 52 Falsehood |
| 9 Past | 30 Physical | 53 Plata's partner |
| 10 To and — | 31 Tablespoonful | 54 Inseparable |
| 11 Kennedy or | or tablet | |
| Koppel | 35 Fame, in 50- | |
| 17 Gratuity | Across | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	1	8	6	2	5	4	9	3
3	6	4	9	8	1	7	2	5
9	2	5	3	7	4	1	6	8
8	7	3	4	1	9	6	5	2
4	5	6	7	3	2	8	1	9
2	9	1	8	5	6	3	4	7
6	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	1
5	8	9	1	6	7	2	3	4
1	4	7	2	9	3	5	8	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	Genius	21-25 min
13-17 min	Scholar	25+ min
		Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Blue Cheese-stuffed Burgers

INGREDIENTS:
 3/4 lb (375 g) extra-lean ground beef
 1 cup (250 ml) quick-cooking oats (uncooked)
 2 tbsp (25 ml) ketchup
 2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
 1/4 tsp (6 ml) black pepper
 1/4 cup (50 ml) crumbled blue cheese
 4 hamburger buns
 Romaine lettuce leaves
 1 firm-ripe tomato, sliced
 1 small red onion, sliced

METHOD:
 1. Preheat broiler. Mix beef, oats, ketchup, mustard, and black pepper in large bowl until well

blended. Divide into 8 equal pieces and flatten into thin patties.
 2. Place 1 tbsp (15 mL) of crumbled cheese in the centre of each of 4 patties.
 3. Top with remaining patties and pinch edges to seal.
 4. Broil 4 inches from the heat until well done — 4 to 6 minutes per side. Serve burgers on buns with lettuce, tomato and red onion.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
 A good-looking guy has to pay the piper. Your social choices are affected by work. A revelation is made during a reconciliation.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
 Somebody's desires are aroused by a chance remark. Don't reach for a secret too soon. Try not to wear out your welcome.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
 Commitments are made and surprises arise. A friend makes a stand about emotional obstacles. Your situation becomes an inspiration.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
 Be sure you know what you're doing. A friend finds the time to see the truth. A car is nearly involved in an accident.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
 Don't let your dreams be threatened by the light of reality. You're aware of someone's uneasiness. Understand the spaces between friends.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
 Someone finds something painful. Don't look down on a last chance meeting. A rough guy is bothering a bad-tempered person.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
 You'll clash with an idiot. Prepare to be the life of the party. A passionate person will calmly break someone's heart.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
 A man comes to you with his problems. Don't intimidate those who seek peace. An ailing friend says something stupid.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
 Someone celebrates getting a generous reward. You could fall into a world of love. There'll be no time left for jagged nerves.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
 A cheater's anxiety attack makes you suspicious. A grouchy friend claims to have a great deal. A humble person is giddy with delight.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
 Some hills are too steep to climb. Say something before you leave. A problematical person forces unwanted changes.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
 An absent minded lover shows up too late to meet. Impossible things will occur. Keep quiet when a bully is near.



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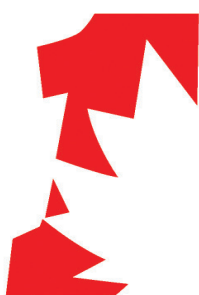
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